

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT NO

TOPIC Military Information from Wittenberg

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 3 to 29 August 1953

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 11 September 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO & TYPE)

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1. On 29 August 1953, the Bessler Kaserne in Wittenberg was occupied as previously by about 900 to 1,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including about 500 troops with tank insignia. On 23 August, 4 T-43 tanks, JS-3 tank and about 300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and receiving field training, were seen in the Polte training area. On 26 August, about 50 soldiers received training in firing in the barracks yard. On 27 August, T-43 tanks and radio jeep were seen between the tank sheds. 1
2. On 29 August, the Arado installation was occupied as previously by about 400 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. On 28 August, about 50 soldiers were drilling in the barracks yard, and JS-3 tank T-43 tanks and 1 JSU-122 gun were seen in the barracks area. 2
3. On 21 August, the Flak Kaserne was occupied by about 500 to 600 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including about 75 percent wearing tank insignia. Source did not observe regular training activities. JSU-122 gun was seen in front of the tank shed. Truck left the installation.
4. On 28 August, the Taunentzien Kaserne was occupied by about 550 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. Between 18 and 28 August, troops observed drilled in the barracks area, left toward Teuchel, received training in firing and maintenance of tanks and motor vehicles.

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25X1C T-43 tanks [redacted] and armored scout cars [redacted] were seen [redacted].

5. On 26 August, the Beselitz Kaserne was occupied by about 1,200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. Troops observed during the period under review engaged in drill, physical training, marching out toward Teuchel and maintenance work. On 27 August, an advanced combat firing practice, involving 7 T-43 tanks and 150 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, was observed in the Teuchel training area. The troops subsequently returned to the installation. Motor vehicles seen en route to and from the installation included:

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T-43 tanks [redacted], JS-3 tanks [redacted] and armored cross-country vehicle [redacted] were seen in the barracks area.

6. On 28 August, the Flak Kaserne was occupied by about 1,500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. Troops observed during the period under review drilled, received training in firing, left for field training and engaged in maintenance work. Motor vehicles seen en route to and from the installation included:

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T-43 tanks [redacted] and armored cross-country vehicle [redacted] were seen in the barracks area.

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7. On 7 August, Camp Apollensdorf was only lightly occupied. Trucks with pontoons and tents were no longer observed. Motorboats [redacted] and an uncompleted bridge, about 15 meters wide, were seen on the Elbe River behind the camp.³

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[REDACTED]

3.

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25X1A 1. [REDACTED] Comment. Railroad records and loadings and unloadings observed tend to indicate that, since early July, tank units of the 6th Gds Tank Div were continually rotated between their Werder-Markendorf training grounds and their Wittenberg post, with the tanks of the 51st Gds Tank Regt mentioned in paragraph 5 having transferred from Jueterbog to Wittenberg on 10 August [REDACTED]

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25X1A 2. [REDACTED] Comment. The unidentified tank training battalion is confirmed in the Arado installation until late August by tank [REDACTED] observed.

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25X1A 3. [REDACTED] Comment. The engineer elements of the divisions of the Third Gas Mecz Army returned to their units on trains [REDACTED] between 23 and 25 July. No information has been received on the whereabouts of the 35th Engr Regt (US).

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